



501.25507CX5

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): O. YOKOMIZO, et al

RECEIVED

Serial No.: 08/470,424

JAN 19 1999

Filed: June 6, 1995

GROUP 3600

For: FUEL ASSEMBLY AND NUCLEAR REACTOR

Group: 3641

Examiner: H. Behrend

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+ (H.E.)
1/19/99
Holler

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

January 11, 1999

Sir:

The following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application in response to the Office Action dated August 10, 1998.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 24 as follows:

24. (amended) A method for operating a nuclear reactor having a reactor vessel, a plurality of fuel assemblies loaded in a core arranged inside the reactor vessel, wherein each of said plurality of fuel assemblies [including] includes a plurality of fuel rods and at least one water rod therein, and [means for regulating] a pump which regulates a flow rate of coolant supplied to the core, the method comprising the steps of:

raising a coolant surface formed between the coolant and a vapor in the at least one water rod by increasing the flow